AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Previously canceled)

11. (currently amended)   In a computer network having at least one server, including a full set of software and a full set of configuration information relating to a set of products, connectable to at least one client, a method for creating technical configurations and electronically delivering order reports to at least one client, the method comprising:

receiving on-line a desired product selected from the set of products by a user on the client;

downloading to the client only limited configuration information that is a subset of the full set of configuration information and limited configuration programs that are a subset of the full configuration program, wherein the limited configuration information and limited configuration programs are determined based on the desired product;

requesting on-line a desired technical configuration from the user, wherein the viability of the desired technical configuration has been preliminarily checked at the client using the limited configuration information and the limited configuration programs;

receiving the desired technical configuration from the client and performing a full check at the server on the viability of the desired technical configuration using the full set of configuration information and the full set of configuration programs on the server; and

preparing and outputting an electronic order report, if the full check at the server is successful.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising using a TCP/IP connection to pass an HTTP request from the client to the server.

13. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the limited configuration information comprises limited option attributes and limited option rules.

14. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the limited configuration programs comprise an HTML page and client-side programs.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the client-side programs comprise a plug-in or helper-application.

16. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the client-side programs include one or more programs selected from Java, JavaScript, ActiveX, and Helper-Viewer.

17. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the client-side programs are cached on the client.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the client-side programs are cached in client-side memory.

19. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the client-side programs are cached on client-side disk storage.

20. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the act of performing a full check comprises executing a CGI script on the server.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising: in response to the act of performing a full check on the viability of the desired technical configuration on the server, allocating and downloading to the client additional limited configuration information; and receiving from the client a second desired technical configuration developed from client processing of the additional limited configuration information.

22. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the act of interactively eliciting and electronically receiving further comprises enabling the user to specify whether an exact match or a loose match is desired between the desired technical configuration and a viable configuration.

23. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the act of interactively eliciting and electronically receiving on the client further comprises using templates of pre-configured information.

24-40. (Previously canceled)

41. (previously added) The method of claim 11 wherein the eliciting step includes requesting at least one of the group consisting of: a vehicle make, a vehicle model, and a vehicle series.

42. (previously added) The method of claim 41 wherein the desired technical configuration is a vehicle configuration.

43. (currently amended) A method for generating an order for a vehicle on a network-based computer system including a server and a client, the server including a full configuration engine including software, a full set of option attributes, and a full set of option rules relating to each of a plurality of vehicles, the method comprising:

>   receiving on-line an identification of a desired vehicle from the client;

>   transmitting only a limited configuration engine to the client in response to the
>>   identification, the limited configuration engine corresponding to the desired
>>   vehicle and including a limited set of option rules;

>   receiving on-line a vehicle configuration from the client, wherein the client has
>>   performed a successful preliminary viability check of the vehicle configuration,
>>   using the limited set of option rules;

>   performing a full viability check of the vehicle configuration at the server, using the full
>>   set of option rules; and

sending an order report summarizing the vehicle configuration to the client, if the full

viability check <u>at the server</u> is successful.

44. (previously added) The method of claim 43 wherein the limited engine includes limited

software and a limited set of option attributes.

45. (previously added) The method of claim 43 further including, after performing the full

viability check, communicating at least one problem with the vehicle configuration to the client.

46. (previously added) The method of claim 45 wherein the at least one problem is displayed on

the client in an HTML web page.

47. (previously added) The method of claim 43 wherein, if the full viability check is

unsuccessful, the server transmits an updated limited configuration engine to the client, the

updated limited configuration engine including updated software and updated option rules.

48. (previously added) The method of claim 43 further comprising transmitting an updated

limited configuration engine to the client, where the vehicle configuration failed to pass the final

viability check.

49. (previously added) The method of claim 48 further comprising receiving a second vehicle

configuration, wherein the client has performed a second viability check of the second vehicle

configuration, using the updated limited configuration engine.

50. (Previously amended) The method of claim 43 wherein the receiving an identification of the

desired vehicle comprises:

       receiving on-line a vehicle make from the client;

       sending on-line a set of vehicle models to the client, the vehicle models corresponding to

              the vehicle make; and

       receiving on-line a vehicle model from the client, the vehicle model chosen from the set

              of vehicle models.

51. (previously added) The method of claim 43 wherein the limited configuration engine includes an HTML web page and client-side programs.

52. (previously added) The method of claim 51 wherein the client-side programs include a plug-in or helper-application.

53. (previously added) The method of claim 51 wherein the client-side programs include one or more programs selected from the group consisting of: Java, JavaScript, ActiveX, and Helper-Viewer.